

REMARKS

Claims 1-46 are pending in the present patent application. Claims 1, 13-18, 24, and 36-46 stand rejected; and claims 2-12, 19-23, and 25-35 stand objected to. This application continues to include claims 1-46.

The Examiner has objected to claims 2-12, 19-23, and 25-35 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has indicated that claims 2-12, 19-23, and 25-35 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowability regarding claims 2-12, 19-23, and 25-35. However, in view of Applicant's response regarding claims 1, 13-18, 24, set forth below, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the objection to claims 2-12, 19-23, and 25-35.

Claims 1, 14, 18, 24, and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over Ikeda, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0155923 A1 (hereinafter, Ikeda). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1, 14, 18, 24, and 37 in view of the following.

Ikeda is directed to a providing a connecting structure for a carriage and a driving belt in a serial scan type recording apparatus that suppresses attenuated vibration (paragraph 17). Ikeda discloses a carriage 50 supported by a guide shaft 81 for reciprocally scanning the carriage perpendicular to the conveying direction of the recording sheet (paragraph 43). Carriage 50 is driven by a carriage motor mounted on the chassis 8 through a timing belt 83 (paragraph 43). On the back side of the carriage 50, a belt holder 59 is fixed while nipping the timing belt 83; a damper 71, which is an elastic member for attenuating vibrations from a

driving system and making the transmission of the vibration to the carriage 50 difficult, is directly fixed to the back of the carriage 50; and belt holder 59 is mounted by a mounting member 72 through damper 71 (paragraph 51). The damper 71 is interposed between the belt holder 59 and the carriage portion 5 (paragraph 52).

Applicant believes that claims 1, 14, 18, 24, and 37 patentably define Applicant's invention over Ikeda, for at least the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1 is directed to an interface device for attaching a printhead carrier to a carrier drive belt. Claim 1 recites, in part, an isolator coupled between said belt holder and said printhead carrier, said isolator being configured to provide directionally dependent filtering of vibrations propagating to said printhead carrier.

Although Ikeda discloses a damper 71 that is interposed between the belt holder 59 and the carriage portion 5 (paragraph 52), Ikeda does not disclose, teach, or suggest that damper 71 itself is configured to provide directionally dependent filtering of vibrations propagating to carriage 50. Rather, Ikeda generally discloses that a vibration attenuating effect is obtained (paragraph 55), with disclosing, teaching, or suggesting the specific limitations pertaining to an isolator being configured to provide directionally dependent filtering of vibrations propagating to the printhead carrier, as recited in claim 1.

In order to clarify the directional dependent filtering of vibrations, as recited in claim 1, Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to Applicant's specification at page 10, lines 19-25, which are reproduced below for the sake of convenience.

Accordingly, carrier isolator assembly 74 is configured to provide directionally dependent filtering of vibrations induced in printhead carrier 40, such as vibrations propagating through carrier drive belt 64, by providing a first dampening of vibration when printhead carrier 40 is moved in a first direction and providing a second dampening of vibration different from the first

dampening of vibration when printhead carrier 40 is moved in a second direction opposite to the first direction. (Emphasis added).

Since Ikeda does not disclose, teach, or suggest the directionally dependent filtering of vibrations within the context of Applicant's claimed invention, i.e., a first dampening of vibration with the printhead carrier is moved in a first direction, and a second dampening of vibration different from the first dampening when the printhead carrier is moved in a second direction opposite the first direction, it is clear that Ikeda does not disclose, teach, or suggest an isolator coupled between the belt holder and the printhead carrier, the isolator being configured to provide directionally dependent filtering of vibrations propagating to the printhead carrier, as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Ikeda does not disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter of claim 1. Claim 1 is thus believed allowable in its present form.

Claim 14 is believed allowable due to its dependence on otherwise allowable base claim 1. In addition, claim 14 further and patentably defines the invention over Ikeda.

For example, claim 14 is directed to the interface device of claim 1, said isolator having a center of mass, and a centerline of said belt holder being spaced from said center of mass of said isolator by a distance along a main scan direction of said printhead carrier.

In contrast to claim 14, Ikeda simply does not disclose, teach, or suggest the isolator having a center of mass, and a centerline of the belt holder being spaced from the center of mass of the isolator by a distance along a main scan direction of the printhead carrier, but rather, does not address the location of the center of mass of damper 71 relative to belt holder 59.

The Examiner asserts that Figs. 3-6 disclose the isolator having a center of mass, and a centerline of the belt holder being spaced from the center of mass of the isolator by a distance along a main scan direction of the printhead carrier. However, Applicant respectfully submits that Figs. 3-6 simply do not disclose, teach, or suggest any center of mass of damper 71 or centerline of belt holder 59, and hence, do not disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter of claim 14. For example, there is simply no depiction in any of Figs. 3-6 as would indicate a center of mass of the asserted Ikeda isolator, and there is similarly no depiction of a centerline of a belt holder, much less such a centerline being spaced from the center of mass of the asserted isolator by a distance along the main scan direction of the Ikeda carriage 50.

Accordingly, claim 14 is believed allowable in its own right.

Each of claims 18 and 24 recite said isolator being configured to provide directionally dependent filtering of vibrations propagating to said printhead carrier. Accordingly, claims 18 and 24 are believed allowable for substantially the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 37 is directed to the imaging apparatus of claim 24, said isolator having a center of mass, and a centerline of said belt holder being spaced from said center of mass of said isolator by a distance along a main scan direction of said printhead carrier.

Claim 37 is believed allowable for substantially the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 14.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant believes that claims 1, 14, 18, 24, and 37 are in condition for allowance in their present form, and thus respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 14, 18, 24, and 37 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) be withdrawn.

Claims 13 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeda in view of Sasaki, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0009434 (hereinafter, Sasaki). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claims 13 and 36 in view of the following.

Sasaki is directed to a mounting construction for a pressure damper that absorbs pressure variation in the ink inside the ink-jet print head (paragraph 2), and discloses a case 20 with pressure dampers 21 housed inside (paragraph 80).

Applicant believes that claims 13 and 36 patentably define Applicant's invention over Ikeda, for at least the reasons set forth below.

Claim 13 is directed to the interface device of claim 1, said isolator being an asymmetrical isolator and said printhead carrier defining a receptacle for receiving said asymmetrical isolator, said printhead carrier having a latch for engaging a latch slot formed in said asymmetrical isolator to retain said asymmetrical isolator in said receptacle.

Claim 13 is believed allowable due to its dependence on otherwise allowable base claim 1. For example, as set forth above with respect to claim 1, Ikeda does not disclose, teach, or suggest an isolator being configured to provide directionally dependent filtering of vibrations propagating to the printhead carrier. Sasaki does not make up for the deficiency of Ikeda as applied to claim 1, nor does the Examiner assert as much. Rather, the Examiner relies upon Sasaki as asserted disclosing the subject matter recited in claim 13.

Accordingly, Ikeda and Sasaki, taken alone or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter of claim 1, and hence, do not disclose, teach, or suggest claim 13, which incorporates by reference the subject matter of claim 1.

In addition, the Examiner asserts that the asymmetrical isolator of claim 13 would be a matter of obvious design choice, relying upon *In Re Rose*, 105 USPQ 237 (Fed. Cir. 1955). However, *In Re Rose* does not address the matter of making an item asymmetrical, but rather, pertains to sizes of packages, which is unrelated to an asymmetrical shape that is the subject matter of claim 13 (see MPEP 2144.04 (IV)(A)), and accordingly, should not be relied upon in rejecting claim 13.

Further, neither Ikeda nor Sasaki, taken alone or in combination, disclose, teach, or suggest the knowledge of the problem to be solved by Applicant's claimed invention, that is, that the fixed natural mode of the printhead carrier system is excited less for the pull direction towards the carrier motor and is excited more for the pull direction away from the carrier motor (see Applicant's specification, for example, at page 7, line 32 to page 8, line 3, at page 8, lines 16-19, and page 8, line 32 to page 9, line 2), which, as set forth in Applicant's specification, for example, at page 9, lines 9-31, dictates the asymmetrical configuration of the isolator of Applicant's claimed invention, and hence, it would not be a matter of obvious design choice to make the isolator asymmetrical.

Furthermore, although Sasaki discloses a case 20 with pressure dampers 21 housed inside, the Sasaki dampers are clearly pressure dampers, which do not disclose, teach, or suggest an isolator within the context of Applicant's claimed invention, which pertains to an isolator coupled between said belt holder and said printhead carrier, said isolator being configured to provide directionally dependent filtering of vibrations propagating to said printhead carrier, as recited in claim 1, from which claim 13 depends.

Still further, Sasaki simply does not disclose, teach, or suggest said printhead carrier having a latch for engaging a latch slot formed in the asymmetrical isolator to retain said

asymmetrical isolator in the receptacle. Hence, the combination of Ikeda and Sasaki would not yield the invention of claim 13.

Accordingly, claim 13 is believed allowable in its own right.

Claim 36 is believed allowable for substantially the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 13.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant believes that claims 13 and 36 are in condition for allowance in their present form, and thus respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 13 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 15, 16, 38, and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeda in view of Kinoshita, JP 04-131267 (hereinafter, Kinoshita). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claims 15, 16, 38, and 39 in view of the following.

Kinoshita is directed to suppressing vibration, and discloses a method wherein a junction mechanism for binding a first structure member with a second structure member is provided with a tongue-form part fastening the first structure member and an elastic member which is fitted through a projection of the second structure member and engaged with a rib part.

Applicant believes that claims 15, 16, 38, and 39 patentably define Applicant's invention over Ikeda in view of Kinoshita, for at least the reasons set forth below.

Claim 15 is directed to the interface device of claim 1, said isolator being made from multiple materials having different stiffness properties.

Claim 15 is believed allowable due to its dependence on otherwise allowable base claim 1. For example, as set forth above with respect to claim 1, Ikeda does not disclose,

teach, or suggest an isolator being configured to provide directionally dependent filtering of vibrations propagating to the printhead carrier. Kinoshita does not make up for the deficiency of Ikeda as applied to claim 1, nor does the Examiner assert as much. Rather, the Examiner relies upon Kinoshita as assertedly disclosing the subject matter recited in claim 15.

Accordingly, Ikeda and Kinoshita, taken alone or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter of claim 1, and hence, do not disclose, teach, or suggest claim 15, which incorporates by reference the subject matter of claim 1.

In addition, Kinoshita simply does not disclose, teach, or suggest an isolator being made from multiple materials having different stiffness properties. Rather, Kinoshita discloses that the upper case claw 1 is “made of a material having large damping properties, such as elastomer- or rubber-based plastic,” which makes clear that Kinoshita discloses the upper case claw 1 being made from a single material having a single stiffness property.

Hence, Ikeda and Kinoshita, taken alone or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter of claim 15, and the combination of Ikeda and Kinoshita would not yield Applicant’s invention of claim 15.

Accordingly, claim 15 is believed allowable in its own right.

Claim 16 is directed to the interface device of claim 1, said isolator being made from a single material having multiple stiffness properties.

Claim 16 is believed allowable due to its dependence on otherwise allowable base claim 1, for substantially the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 15.

In addition, as set forth above with respect to claim 15, Kinoshita discloses that upper case claw 1 is made from a single material having a single stiffness property. Hence,

Kinoshita does not disclose, teach, or suggest an isolator being made from a single material having multiple stiffness properties, as recited in claim 16.

Accordingly, claim 16 is believed allowable in its own right.

Claims 38 and 39 are believed allowable for substantially the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claims 15 and 16, respectively.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant believes that claims 15, 16, 38, and 39 are in condition for allowance in their present form, and thus respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 15, 16, 38, and 39 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 17 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeda in view of Kinoshita, and in further view of Arai, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,863,390 B2(hereinafter, Arai). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claims 17 and 40 in view of the following.

Arai is directed to a head unit having a damper mechanism capable of reliably suppressing the fluctuation of ink pressure occurring due to the movement of the head unit (col. 1, lines 8-10). Arai discloses that it is preferable that the damping film is made of a rubber film formed with the insertion hole having a size smaller than a size of a tip end portion of the ink supply tube, so that the insertion hole is enlarged when the tip end portion is inserted thereinto (col. 2, lines 60-65).

Applicant believes that claims 17 and 40 patentably define Applicant's invention over Ikeda in view of Kinoshita, for at least the reasons set forth below.

Claim 17 is directed to the interface device of claim 16, said isolator being made from an elastomeric material having at least one of a different amount of hardener, additives, air bubbles and holes located in a portion of said isolator.

Claim 17 is believed allowable due to its dependence on otherwise allowable base claim 1. For example, as set forth above with respect to claim 1, Ikeda does not disclose, teach, or suggest an isolator being configured to provide directionally dependent filtering of vibrations propagating to the printhead carrier. Kinoshita and Arai do not make up for the deficiency of Ikeda as applied to claim 1, nor does the Examiner assert as much.

Accordingly, Ikeda, Kinoshita, and Arai, taken alone or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter of claim 1, and hence, do not disclose, teach, or suggest claim 17, which incorporates by reference the subject matter of claim 1.

In addition, Arai does not disclose, teach, or suggest an isolator being made from an elastomeric material having at least one of a different amount of hardener, additives, air bubbles and holes located in a portion of said isolator.

Firstly, Arai does not disclose, teach, or suggest an isolator within the context of Applicant's claimed invention. For example, the Arai damper pertains to a damper mechanism capable of reliably suppressing the fluctuation of ink pressure occurring due to the movement of the head unit (col. 1, lines 8-10), which does not disclose, teach, or suggest an isolator coupled between said belt holder and said printhead carrier, said isolator being configured to provide directionally dependent filtering of vibrations propagating to said printhead carrier, as recited in claim 1, from which claim 15 depends. Rather, the Arai damper clearly is intended to suppress fluctuations of ink pressure.

In addition, Arai simply does not disclose, teach, or suggest the isolator being made from an elastomeric material having at least one of a different amount of hardener, additives, air bubbles and holes located in a portion of the isolator. Rather, Arai merely discloses that

the damping film is made of a rubber film that is formed in an insertion hole (col. 2, lines 61-65).

Accordingly, claim 17 is believed allowable in its own right.

Claim 40 is believed allowable for substantially the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 17.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant believes that claims 17 and 40 are in condition for allowance in their present form, and thus respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 17 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 41-43, 45, and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeda, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0048325 A1 (hereinafter Ikeda2) in view of Lidke, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,790,150 (hereinafter, Lidke). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claims 41-43, 45, and 46 in view of the following.

Ikeda2 is directed to suppressing the positional deviation of a carriage, while attenuating vibrations transmitted from the driving source of the carriage (paragraph 13). Ikeda2 discloses that a carriage 50 is driven by the carriage motor 80, which is fixed to the chassis 8 through a timing belt 83 (paragraph 32). The structure for connecting the carriage 50 (rear cover 60) and the timing belt 83 includes a belt holder 59 fixed to the timing belt 83; two dumpers 61 that attenuate vibration transmitted from the driving system of the carriage 50 through the timing belt 83; and a fixing member 62 that fixes the dumpers 61 to the belt holder 59 (paragraph 39).

Each axial portion 59a of the belt holder 59 is inserted into the hollow portion 61a of the damper 61, and the structure is arranged to connect the belt holder 59 and the rear cover 60 by inserting the axial portion 59a of the belt holder 59 into the damper fixing hole 60c of

the rear cover 60 through the damper 61, thus making it possible to connect the belt holder 59 and the rear cover 60 reliably without impeding the attenuation effect of the damper 61 (paragraph 43). Two dampers 61 are arranged in parallel in the traveling direction of the carriage 50, and therefore structured so that the attenuation effect is larger in the direction, which is not in parallel to the traveling direction of the carriage 50, that is, more specifically, the direction at right angles to the traveling direction of the carriage 50, than the attenuation effect produced in the traveling direction of the carriage 50 (paragraph 48).

Lidke is directed to controlling a multiple print nozzle ink jet printer so as to increase both the print quality and printing speed of the ink jet printer when operating in a multipass printing mode (col. 1, lines 8-12). Lidke discloses a print carriage 102 that may traverse across print medium 106 in either a unidirectional or bi-directional manner.

Applicant believes that claims 41-43, 45, and 46 patentably define Applicant's invention over Ikeda in view of Lidke, for at least the reasons set forth below.

Claim 41 is directed to an imaging apparatus. Claim 41 recites, in part, a printhead carrier having a receptacle configured for mounting said isolator, said receptacle having a first thrust wall and a second thrust wall spaced apart from said first thrust wall along a bi-directional main scan direction of said printhead carrier, said isolator being retained between and in engagement with said first thrust wall and said second thrust wall, wherein a structural geometry of said second thrust wall is different than a structural geometry of said first thrust wall to adjust an amount of dampening in each direction along said bi-directional main scan direction to provide directionally dependent filtering of vibrations propagating to said printhead carrier.

In contrast to a structural geometry of the second thrust wall being different than a structural geometry of the first thrust wall to adjust an amount of dampening in each direction along the bi-directional main scan direction to provide directionally dependent filtering of vibrations propagating to the printhead carrier, Ikeda2 discloses that two dampers 61 are arranged in parallel in the traveling direction of the carriage 50, and therefore structured so that the attenuation effect is larger in the direction, which is not in parallel to the traveling direction of the carriage 50, that is, more specifically, the direction at right angles to the traveling direction of the carriage 50, than the attenuation effect produced in the traveling direction of the carriage 50 (paragraph 48) (Emphasis added).

Thus, Ikeda2 discloses that damping is larger in a direction perpendicular to the scanning direction than in the scanning direction, which does not disclose, teach, or suggest the ability to adjust an amount of dampening in each direction along the bi-directional main scan direction to provide directionally dependent filtering of vibrations propagating to the printhead carrier, as recited in claim 41.

Although Lidke discloses a print carriage 102 that may traverse across print medium 106 in either a unidirectional or bi-directional manner, Lidke does not disclose, teach, or suggest the ability to adjust an amount of dampening in each direction along the bi-directional main scan direction to provide directionally dependent filtering of vibrations propagating to the printhead carrier, as recited in claim 41, nor does the Examiner assert as much. Rather, the Examiner relies upon Lidke for the teaching of a bi-directional main scan direction of the printhead.

Accordingly, since Ikeda2 and Lidke, taken alone or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest the ability to adjust an amount of dampening in each direction along the bi-

directional main scan direction to provide directionally dependent filtering of vibrations propagating to the printhead carrier, as recited in claim 41, the combination of Ikeda2 and Lidke would not yield Applicant's invention of claim 41.

Further, neither Ikeda2 nor Lidke disclose, teach, or suggest the knowledge of the problem to be solved by Applicant's claimed invention, that is, that the fixed natural mode of the printhead carrier system is excited less for the pull direction towards the carrier motor and is excited more for the pull direction away from the carrier motor (see Applicant's specification, for example, at page 7, line 32 to page 8, line 3, at page 8, lines 16-19, and page 8, line 32 to page 9, line 2), and hence, one skilled in the art would not be motivated to combine Ikeda2 and Lidke in order to achieve Applicant's invention of claim 41.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Ikeda2 and Lidke, taken alone or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter of claim 41, the combination of Ikeda2 and Lidke would not yield the invention of claim 41, and further, claim 41 is not obvious over Ikeda2 in view of Lidke.

Claim 41 is thus believed allowable in its present form.

Claims 42, 43, 45, and 46 are believed allowable due to their dependence on otherwise allowable base claim 41. In addition, claims 42, 43, 45, and 46 further and patentably define the invention over Ikeda2 and Lidke, taken alone or in combination.

For example, claim 42 is directed to the imaging apparatus of claim 41, said bi-directional main scan direction including a direction toward a carrier motor and a direction away from said carrier motor, said second thrust wall being positioned closer to said carrier motor than said first thrust wall.

Ikeda2 and Lidke, taken alone or in combination, simply do not disclose, teach, or suggest a second thrust wall being positioned closer to the carrier motor than a first thrust wall.

Accordingly, claim 42 is believed allowable in its own right.

Claim 46 is directed to the imaging apparatus of claim 41, said isolator being asymmetrical.

Ikeda2 and Lidke, taken alone or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest an asymmetrical isolator, nor does the Examiner assert as much. Rather, the Examiner asserts that it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to make the isolator an asymmetrical shape.

However, neither Ikeda2 nor Lidke, taken alone or in combination, disclose, teach, or suggest the knowledge of the problem to be solved by Applicant's claimed invention, that is, that the fixed natural mode of the printhead carrier system is excited less for the pull direction towards the carrier motor and is excited more for the pull direction away from the carrier motor (see Applicant's specification, for example, at page 7, line 32 to page 8, line 3, at page 8, lines 16-19, and page 8, line 32 to page 9, line 2), which, as set forth in Applicant's specification, for example, at page 9, lines 9-31, dictates the asymmetrical configuration of the isolator of Applicant's claimed invention.

Hence, it would not be a matter of obvious design choice to make the isolator asymmetrical.

Accordingly, claim 46 is believed allowable in its own right.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant believes that claims 41-43, 45, and 46 are in condition for allowance in their present form, and thus respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 41-43, 45, and 46 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claim 44 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeda2 in view of Sasaki. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claim 44, and believes that claim 44 patentably defines Applicant's invention over Ikeda2 in view of Sasaki, for at least the reasons set forth below.

Claim 44 is directed to the imaging apparatus of claim 41, said second thrust wall being shorter in height than said first thrust wall.

Claim 44 is believed allowable due to its dependence on otherwise allowable base claim 41.

For example, as set forth above with respect to claim 41, Ikeda2 does not disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter of claim 41. Sasaki does not make up for the deficiency of Ikeda2, as applied to claim 41, nor does the Examiner assert as much. Rather, the Examiner relies upon Sasaki for the proposition of the second thrust wall being shorter in height than the first thrust wall.

Claim 41 recites a first thrust wall and a second thrust wall spaced apart from the first thrust wall along a bi-directional main scan direction of the printhead carrier, and that the isolator is retained between and in engagement with the first thrust wall and the second thrust wall. However, the asserted Sasaki thrust walls are not spaced apart from each other along a bi-directional main scan direction, and as depicted, would not physically allow for the isolator to be retained between the two asserted thrust walls. Hence, the asserted Sasaki thrust walls are not thrust walls within the context of Applicant's claimed invention, and accordingly,

claim 44 is believed allowable due to its dependence upon otherwise allowable base claim 41, which is incorporated by reference into claim 44.


Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant believes that claim 44 is in condition for allowance in their present form, and thus respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 44 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the pending claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby conditionally petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,


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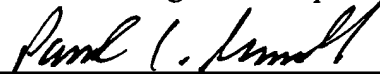
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